REMARKS

Claims 13-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended. No claims are cancelled or added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 20040210771 to Wood et al. ("Wood"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, but in an effort to further differentiate the claimed invention from Wood have amended independent claims 13, 17, and 22, to include limitations not disclosed in Wood.

Wood discloses a proxy server (gatekeeper 110) adapted to send to a remote authentication server (authorization component 140) a request transmitted by a terminal (browser 170) for accessing a resource. The remote authentication server 140 determines whether the requested access is activated according to a trust level based on session credentials (para. [0048]). In some embodiments, if the trust level is insufficient for a requested access, the remote authentication server may forward a REDIRECT response to a login component (paras. [0049]-[0050]) to obtain more credentials, these credentials being supplied to the gatekeeper 110 for authentication.

However, Wood firstly fails to disclose the gatekeeper determining, upon the request of the terminal, whether local authentication of said user must be performed at the level of the access network, *before* transmitting said access request to the remote authentication component 140, as recited in newly amended claim 13. In the claimed invention, and unlike the system disclosed in Wood, the access request is not transmitted to the remote server when a local

8

authentication at the level of the access network is necessary, thus sparing the remote server from handling unnecessary requests.

Wood secondly fails to disclose the use of the RADIUS protocol, as also recited in claim 13. The Office Action states that Figure 1 and paragraph [0009] disclose use of the RADIUS protocol. Respectfully, Applicants disagree with this characterization of Wood. Figure 1 of Wood provides no reference to the RADIUS protocol, while paragraph [0009] refers to a security architecture that allows use of multiple authentication schemes, the particular scheme used depending on the trust level requirements of the information resource. No direct or indirect reference is made to the RADIUS protocol.

Accordingly, Wood fails to anticipate newly amended claim 13, and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection, and the rejection to claims 14-16, and 23, which depend from claim 13, be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claims 17 and 22, Applicants have similarly amended these claims to emphasize that the respective system and server each include means for determining whether a local access must be performed at the access network level before transmitting the RADIUS access request. As discussed above with respect to claim 13, Wood does not disclose such a limitation. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection to claims 17 and 22, and to claims 18-21, which depend from claim 17 be withdrawn.
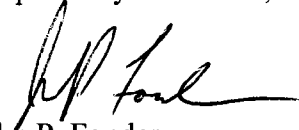
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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